

PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF MIDWIFERY AND GYNAECOLOGY—Fifth Edition—For Students and Practitioners—W. F. T. Haultain and Clifford Kennedy. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd., London, 1957. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore. 410 pages, \$7.00.

This book covers the clinical aspects of obstetrics and gynecology in a synoptic fashion. It is hardly more than a set of authoritative notes, the bare bones of the subjects. Much of the information is recorded in tabular form without much in the way of explanatory exposition. Considerable attention is given to differential diagnosis, tabulating the expected findings for the various possibilities. For a student studying for an examination I could imagine that such a volume might serve as an excellent review outline. I should not imagine that it would have much appeal otherwise. Since the book was written by Englishmen it has a distinctly British flavor, in terminology and in the character of the management suggested, which would limit its usefulness for students in this country.

For the most part the concepts expressed are widely accepted ones, though one does encounter statements which seem either odd or antiquated to this reviewer. For example, in discussing prenatal care the following statements appear:

"Crowded entertainments are apt to bring on syncope in some women and are therefore to be avoided."

"Warm underdrawers are always to be worn."

"Excessive diet may increase the size of the child."

"Intercourse must be prohibited after the seventh month of pregnancy."

"False pains are usually due to constipation."

A considerable section is devoted to a midwifery bag for home delivery and the conduct of labor under such circumstances.

A bad feature, to my mind, is the inclusion of many drugs, procedures and treatments without comment as to their places in the scheme of things, i.e., frequently, the preferred plan is not clearly indicated.

I do not believe that this book has a place on the American scene.

DANIEL G. MORTON, M.D.

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CLINICAL OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY—June, 1958—A Quarterly Book Series—Volume I, Number II—Toxemias of Pregnancy—Edited by Louis M. Hellman, M.D.; and Fibromyomas of the Uterus—Edited by Robert A. Kimbrough, M.D. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York 16, N. Y., 1958. Price: \$18.00 per year for four consecutive numbers issued quarterly.

This volume is the second of the series on Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology to be published by Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. It will be recalled that these publications are designed to fill the gap between the journals and the textbooks, and that they represent authoritative current opinion. This particular volume contains two symposia, the first on Toxemias of Pregnancy, edited by Louis M. Hellman, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, N. Y., and the second on Fibromyomas of the Uterus, edited by Robert A. Kimbrough, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Schools of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Penna. Both of these editors are eminently qualified for the jobs which they have done.

Among the contributors to the symposium on Toxemias of Pregnancy are Leon Chesley whose subject is the Renal Excretion of Sodium in Women with Pre-eclampsia, Milton McCall on Circulation of the Brain in Toxemia, J. C. McClure Browne on the Uterine Circulation in Toxemia, Robert Nesbitt on Pathology of the Placenta in Toxemia, N. S. Assali on Treatment of Eclampsia and Pre-eclampsia, and

H. L. Sheehan on Causes of Maternal Death in Toxemia. The chapters are brief and to the point and certainly present the thought of today. One finds interesting and helpful sections on the hormonal changes associated with toxemia and on the use of hypotensive drugs in treatment.

My only criticism of the symposium on Fibromyomas of the Uterus is that there is a considerable amount of overlap. This is inevitable I suppose when the various phases of the subject are considered by a dozen different contributors. Kimbrough's team includes such men as Roger Scott, H. S. Everett, Leon Israel, Eugene Edwards, Virgil Counsellor, Richard Te Linde, I. C. Rubin, and John Parks. One finds all of the clinical aspects of this disease considered in a very satisfactory manner. Dr. Rubin's section on the relation of fibromyomas to sterility is quite thorough and is interesting indeed, representing as it does the opinions and results of one whose long and fruitful life has been dedicated to the general subject of infertility. I feel certain that the reader will be interested in Dr. Rubin's assessment of the value of myomectomy in the treatment of the infertile patient who has a myomatous uterus. Also it is interesting to contrast the attitudes of our authorities toward abdominal versus vaginal hysterectomy for uterine fibromyomas.

One minor defect in this particular volume is that the page dealing with contents lists the chapters on the Toxemias of Pregnancy under the heading Symposium on Fibromyomas of the Uterus, Robert A. Kimbrough, guest editor, and heads the section on fibromyomas with Symposium on Toxemias of Pregnancy, Louis M. Hellman, guest editor. This was a proofreading error no doubt.

DANIEL G. MORTON, M.D.

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ACTION OF RADIATION ON TISSUES—An Introduction to Radiotherapy—A. Lacassagne, Chief of Service of Pasteur Institute, and G. Gricouloff, Chief of the Laboratory of the Curie Foundation (Radium Institute). Translated by Clarence C. Lushbaugh, M.D., and Gretchen R. Riese, M.S., Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, University of California. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York, 1958. 199 pages, \$6.25.

The purpose of this short monograph is to describe the authors' viewpoints on the action of radiation on tissues, as an introduction to the clinical use of radiotherapy. The original work was prepared in 1939 and published in 1941; the present volume attempts to bring this up to date, and includes a small amount of material on the effects of artificial radioactive isotopes.

There are chapters on the biological action of radiations of various types, and then a series of chapters on the effects of radiations on specific tissues such as skin, intestinal epithelium, respiratory epithelium, urinary tract, genital system, osseous system, endocrine system, and nervous system.

Much of the material is in essence a historical review of the effects of radiation on the different body systems, based largely on animal experimentation. As a result, the manual actually provides little new information, but does furnish an excellent bibliography of the French and German literature on experimental radiotherapy. The translators have included a few English and American references. The work can be recommended for the research student in radiobiology, but probably has only passing interest for the student of clinical radiology. To be of much value to the latter, it would be desirable for the distinguished authors to add sections on the response of human tissues to radiations, and the basic biologic reactions involved in clinical radiotherapy, especially of cancer.

The work is well printed. There is a good author and subject index.

L. HENRY GARLAND, M.B.